Garrett Hodgkins

Essential Belief Statement

My decision to take up Secondary Education as a major was made as early as my sophomore year in high school. My largest influence was my English teacher, Mr. Bailey. Through my first few years of high school I was showing high classroom participation id discussion in group work, but low grades otherwise. Mr. Bailey saw that potential and made sure to work with me over the next few years to deal with personal problems as well as to give me the motivation I needed to graduate high school as well as apply to college. I want to be able to do the same thing for my future students that Mr. Bailey did for me, I want to be able to help them when they may be struggling, and I want them to know that there are always people in their life willing to teach them and help them when needed.

More specifically than my decision to teach, are my decision of level and content of study. First of all, I chose English because I think it is something I have always excelled at and if not excelled then at least had a passion for it. I believe that this passion will help me to teach students and hopefully endow them with the same passion for it as I have. As for the grade level I want to teach, it comes with my own experiences in that grade level. 7-12 is a very confusing time in an adolescent’s life as everyone knows firsthand. I believe that being helped through high school as I was while dealing with my own problems I might be able to impart some of my knowledge and experiences on the students of that level, and hopefully improve their educational experience to the extent that Mr. Bailey did for me.

As I continue to learn of teaching methods and approaches I will do my best to include them in my future curriculum. As already learned in the first two chapters of our classroom it is always the student’s needs that comes first, and I want to make sure to use any method or approach I learn in this class to meet those needs as best as I can.

When I finally get to enter a classroom as a teacher I expect a multitude of things, as well as fear a few. I expect it to be just as much of a learning experience for me as it will be for me students, and I expect to improve on my ability to teach with each year I am in the field. I hope that my ability to speak well in public and enjoyment of giving presentations are two things that will help me in my future classroom. One of my largest fears upon entering the classroom is not being able to connect to some of the students, or relate to issues they may be having in the classroom. This is something that may severely inhibit my ability to teach them, and I hope it is a fear I get over throughout the course of this class.

Throughout this course I expect to better learn how to teach my students, how to develop a good curriculum, how to mold that curriculum to my students, and how to apply the many methods of teaching and my own learning style to the classroom and my students.